



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Attorney Sandra S. Ikuta Nominated to Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

SAN FRANCISCO – President Bush has nominated Sandra Segal Ikuta, a Los Angeles attorney who serves as general counsel to the California Resources Agency, to serve as a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

The White House announced the nomination of Ms. Ikuta Wednesday (Feb. 8). If confirmed by the Senate, she would fill a judgeship vacant since September 1, 2000, when Chief Judge Emeritus James R. Browning took senior status.

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Ms. Ikuta, 51, to be deputy secretary and general counsel of the California Resources Agency in January 2004. The agency is responsible for environmental protection and management of the state's natural, historical and cultural resources, including water, forests, fish and game, state parks and waterways. The agency reports to 17 public boards and commissions.

Prior to her political appointment, Ms. Ikuta was associated with the Los Angeles office of O'Melveny & Myers. She joined the law firm in 1990 as an associate and became a partner in 1997. She specialized in environmental and natural resources law and co-chaired the firm's environmental practice group. She previously served as a law clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, 1989-90, and Judge Alex Kozinski of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, 1988-89.

Ms. Ikuta received her J.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles School of Law in 1988, and a Master of Science from Columbia University School of Journalism in 1978. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1976.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is authorized 28 active judgeships and currently has four vacancies. With the addition of Ms. Ikuta, nominations are now pending for three of the four vacancies. Since taking office in 2001, President Bush has filled four judgeships on the court.

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The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals hears appeals of cases decided by federal trial courts or state courts in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington, plus the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. For fiscal year 2005, the court reported 16,037 appeals filed.

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